

# Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 26 November 1992

## *The week in statistics ...*

- Manufacturing prices in September 2
- Dollar keeps import prices rising 3
- Home lending — the trend up continues  
at a slower pace 4
- Numbers in post-compulsory education  
top two million 5
- All the week's releases 6
- Calendar of key releases up to  
8 December 7
- The latest ...
  - key State indicators 7
  - key national indicators 8

## Manufacturing prices in September

Prices of articles produced by manufacturing industry rose by 0.4 per cent between August and September, while prices of materials used in manufacturing rose by only 0.1 per cent during this period. Details of movements in the two price indexes are given below.

### Small increase in manufacturing materials prices

The price index of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 0.1 per cent between August and September 1992.

While imported materials prices increased by 0.9 per cent, prices for home produced materials fell by 0.4 per cent.

The main contributors to the increase in imported materials prices in September were components for machinery and equipment and other manufactured materials which were partly offset by lower prices for chemicals and chemical based materials.

The fall in prices of home produced materials resulted mainly from lower prices for crude petroleum and for sheep and lambs.

Over the year to September, prices of manufacturing materials increased by 7.5 per cent, the largest annual increase since December 1990.

The table below summarises the price movements of imported and home produced materials.

PRICE OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING  
SEPTEMBER 1992  
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	0.9	8.0
Home produced	-0.4	7.3
All manufacturing	0.1	7.5

### Further small rise in prices of manufactured goods

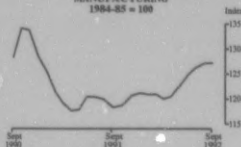
The price index of articles produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between August and September 1992, the fifth consecutive monthly increase of that magnitude.

The rise was due mainly to small increases in prices for a wide range of items; the only individual increase of significance was for meat (2.3%).

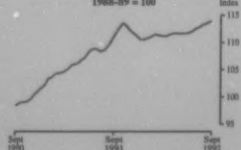
These increases were partially offset by small price decreases for about a quarter of the items in the index.

The All Manufacturing Industry Index rose by 2.6 per cent between September 1991 and September 1992, representing a continuation of the upward trend in the annual rate since late 1991.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING  
1984-85 = 100



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS  
1988-89 = 100



Variations in the rate of price change for different sectors of manufacturing are shown below.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS  
SEPTEMBER 1992  
Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	-0.6	9.4
Food and beverages	0.6	3.5
Transport equipment	0.4	3.1
Basic metal products	0.5	3.0
Other industrial machinery	0.4	1.6
Clothing and footwear	-0.1	1.1
Chemical products	-0.3	0.7
Fabricated metal products	-0.3	0.4
Total manufacturing	0.4	2.6

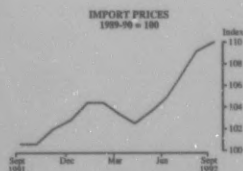
For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)* and *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348 or Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

## Dollar keeps import prices rising

The Import Price Index rose by 0.7 per cent in September 1992 mainly as a result of the continuing fall in the value of the dollar against the currencies of most of Australia's major trading partners.

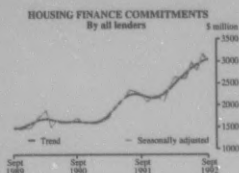
The main contributors to the September price rise were road vehicles, telecommunications equipment and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances.

Between September 1991 and September 1992 the index increased by 9.3 per cent.



IMPORT PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1992  
Percentage change

Selected groups of items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Commodities and transactions	1.4	6.8
Machinery and transport equipment	1.3	11.8
Food and live animals	1.3	7.0
Crude materials	1.0	8.5
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	0.7	7.2
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	0.4	10.8
Chemical products	0.3	6.5
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	-0.5	25.5
All items	0.7	9.3



## Home lending — the trend up continues at a slower pace

The provisional trend estimate for the number of dwelling units financed in September 1992 for owner occupation continued the rise which began in December 1991. The September estimate was up 1.0 per cent on August 1992 and was 25.2 per cent above the September 1991 figure. The rate of increase in the trend, however, is continuing to slow.

The overall increase in the trend, largely attributable to the continued growth in the established dwellings segment of the market, was not reflected in the two other key market segments.

Both construction of dwellings and purchase of newly erected dwellings recorded decreases in September — the former for the first time since October 1991. For newly erected dwellings it was the fourth successive monthly decrease.

Although in original terms the number of dwelling units financed in September 1992 was 39,356, the highest number financed since the series peaked at 40,985 dwelling units in June 1988, in seasonally adjusted terms the September estimate was 5.5 per cent below the August 1992 estimate.

As a proportion of total new housing finance commitments in September 1992, refinancing accounted for 11.5 per cent; this compares with 5.5 per cent in July 1991, the first month in which this series was published.

**HOME FINANCE COMMITMENTS**  
**SEPTEMBER 1992**  
Value of commitments

	Established dwellings	Construction of dwellings	Purchase of newly erected dwellings	Total
% change from August 1992				
Trend	2.3	1.4	-2.6	1.9
Seasonally adjusted	-4.1	-6.8	-15.6	-5.2
Unadjusted	10.0	11.7	1.5	9.9
% change from September 1991				
Trend	37.7	39.2	25.7	37.3
Seasonally adjusted	33.5	38.6	20.8	33.7
Unadjusted	51.3	60.9	37.7	52.2

The trend estimate of the total value of housing finance commitments also rose slightly in September, despite a decline in the amount lent for the purchase of newly erected dwellings.

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia* (5609.0), or contact John Carson on (06) 252 7110 or Harry Wilson on (06) 252 6170.

## Numbers in post-compulsory education top two million

In May 1992, 2,006,600 or 17 per cent of the population aged 15 to 64 were attending a school or tertiary educational institution, according to the latest ABS annual figures on transition from education to work.

Over the five years to May 1992, the number of students has risen by 394,600 (24%). The increase in attendance at higher education institutions was 231,200 (57%) with an increase of 74,000 (16%) at TAFEs.

The survey shows that 384,200 persons were reported as having left full-time education during the period January 1991 to May 1992. Of these, 65 per cent (249,500) were employed at May 1992 and 26 per cent (100,000) were unemployed. The 1987 figure for full-time school leavers was 194,500 while the 1992 figure was 149,900, a decrease of 44,600 or 23 per cent (i.e. more school students continued full-time study). The number of leavers from tertiary institutions, on the other hand, has increased by 99,600 (74%) since 1987.

The figures show that, at the time of the survey, 1,006,300 students were employed (546,700 on a full-time basis) and a further 159,900 were unemployed. The remaining 840,400 students were not in the labour force.

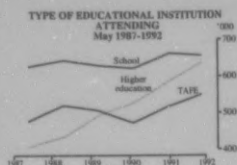
Educational status of 19 and 22 year olds at May 1992 was:

- ☐ 50 per cent of 19 year olds (140,500) were attending an educational institution, 10 per cent (29,400) were not attending but already held a post-school qualification and 40 per cent (113,000) were without post-school qualifications and were not attending
- ☐ 25 per cent of 22 year olds (69,900) were attending an educational institution, 36 per cent (100,000) were not attending but held a post-school qualification and 39 per cent (110,700) were without post-school qualifications and were not attending.

The estimated number of apprentices rose from 139,700 in May 1987 to 175,500 in May 1989, then decreased to 137,000 in May 1992. The current estimate of first year apprentices (28,300) is 27 per cent less than in May 1987 and 50 per cent less than in May 1992.

EDUCATIONAL ATTENDANCE AND LABOUR FORCE STATUS, MAY 1992  
Persons aged 15 to 64  
'000

In May 1992	Persons aged 15 to 64			Total
	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	
Full-time	366	95	752	1,213
Part-time	640	65	89	794
Not attending	6,575	758	2,247	9,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,581</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>11,586</b>



## Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications mentioned in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

### ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
(06) 252 6627  
(06) 253 1404

### ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 266 4611  
Vic. (03) 615 7000  
Qld (07) 222 6351  
WA (09) 323 5140  
SA (08) 237 7100  
Tas. (002) 20 5800  
NT (089) 432 111

## All the week's releases: 18 to 24 November

### General

- Publications Advice, 20 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Publications Advice, 24 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
- Australia at a Glance, 1993 (1309.0; free)
- Statistics Weekly, 19 November 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, November 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
- Northern Territory Business Indicators, November 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

### Census of Population and Housing

- 1991 Census — Final Counts of Persons by Age and Sex for Selected Areas, NT, (2802.7; \$15.00) — *new issue*

### Demography

- Australian Demographic Statistics, June Qtr 1992 (3101.0; \$12.00)

### Social statistics

- Education and Training in Aust., 1991 (4224.0; \$45.00) — *new issue*
- National accounts, finance and foreign trade
- Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, September Qtr 1992 (5435.0; \$19.00)
- Government Financial Estimates, Aust., 1992-93 (5501.0; \$21.40)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., September 1992 (5609.0; \$10.50)

### Labour statistics and prices

- Transition from Education to Work, Aust., May 1992 (6227.0; \$12.50)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., September 1992 (6312.0; \$11.00)
- Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
- Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., September 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
- Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., September 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- Import Price Index, Aust., September 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)

### Agriculture

- Information Paper: Horticulture Statistics, 1992 (7331.0; free) — *new issue*

### Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, September 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, September 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Transport Equipment, September 1992 (8363.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, September 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, September 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)
- Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Wood and Wood Products, September 1992 (8369.0; \$6.00)
- Tourist Accommodation, ACT, September Qtr 1992 (8635.8; \$8.00)

## Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 026608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

## Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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(06) 252 6104

## Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 8 December 1992

### November

- [25]** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- [26]** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1993, September Quarter 1992 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)  
Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, September 1992 and Expected Sales to June 1993, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5629.0; \$10.50)  
Manufacturing Production, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- [27]** Balance of Payments, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5302.0; \$21.00)  
Company Profits, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5651.0; \$10.50)
- [30]** Balance of Payments, Australia, October 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

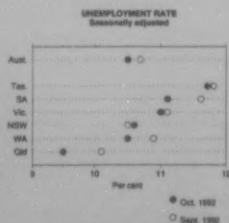
### December

- [1]** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, September Quarter 1992 (5206.0; \$21.00)  
Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, September Quarter 1992 (5222.0; \$12.00)  
International Investment Position, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5306.0; \$21.00)  
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (8125.0; \$10.50)

## The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

24 November 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92) <sup>*</sup>	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Sept. 92) (trend estimate)	2.5	2.0	6.9	-2.9	6.8	5.4	n.a.	4.6	3.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 92) <sup>†</sup>	2.6	7.7	22.6	8.4	26.4	12.9	42.3	-14.9	9.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 92) <sup>*</sup>	6.4	11.9	10.6	9.8	19.9	12.3	-20.1	121.5	9.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Oct. 92) <sup>*</sup>	0.1	-1.6	3.0	1.3	1.5	-1.0	1.8	4.4	0.5
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 92)	1.2	1.0	2.4	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.2	2.3	1.4
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

<sup>\*</sup> Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. <sup>†</sup> Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

## Key national indicators – consolidated to 24 November 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
<b>National production</b>						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
<b>Industrial activity</b>						
New capital expenditure — current prices (f)	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices (f)	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure (f)	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Sept. 92	7,748	7,937	0.0	4.1
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7
New motor vehicle registrations (e)	no.	Sept. 92	47,643	43,648	-3.8	9.7
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Sept. 92	14,249	13,220	-1.2	9.5
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,910	1,835	3.0	7.3
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices (f)	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices (f)	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales (f)	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
<b>Labour</b>						
Employed persons	'000	Oct. 92	7,723.9	7,713.5	0.3	0.5
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.5	11.3	0.5	1.1
Participation rate †	"	"	62.7	63.2	0.5	0.1
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0
<b>Prices, profits and wages</b>						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		Sept. 92	127.2	n.a.	0.1	7.5
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		Sept. 92	114.0	n.a.	0.4	2.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 92	585.70	n.a.	-0.3	3.2
<b>Interest rates (b) (monthly average)</b>						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 92	5.85	n.a.	-0.10	-2.85
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.85	n.a.	-0.10	-0.95
<b>Balance of payments</b>						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Sept. 92	5,170	5,222	11.2	15.8
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,281	-5,249	20.2	22.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-111	-27	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-548	-316	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,718	-1,512	61.5	15.7
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
<b>Foreign investment</b>						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
<b>Exchange rates (monthly average)</b>						
US\$	per \$A	Sept. 92	0.7225	n.a.	-0.5	-8.9
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.8	-14.8
<b>Other indicators</b>						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 92	17.5	n.a.	0.2	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Aug. 92	199	212	-5.0	2.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 25 November 1992. (f) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 26 November 1992.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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